

the State of Pennsylvania, nearly 14 percent of our population, many of them in Philadelphia, are hungry. And, unfortunately, they will be joined by more Pennsylvanians if this farm bill is to pass.

Mr. Speaker, this is not something to be taken lightly. This is not something that we should smile and joke about because this is no joke. There are an awful lot of people out here, Mr. Speaker. And the Congressional Black Caucus stands today to work with anyone who is trying to move us forward and not backward.

So it is clear, Mr. Speaker, in terms of the effects that we are having, this is something that we shouldn't take lightly.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to make a little announcement about the person who does all the staff work, because it is important to recognize staff.

She has been the guiding force behind these Special Orders, and I want to thank her personally and go on the record that Caren Street has been a fantastic person. She is just leaving the Congressional Black Caucus, but she will still be around and be available.

Mr. Speaker, I want to thank Caren for all she has done for the people of this country and particularly for the Congressional Black Caucus.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

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#### BENEFITS OF TAX CUTS AND JOBS ACT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 3, 2017, the gentleman from Kentucky (Mr. GUTHRIE) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the majority leader.

#### GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. GUTHRIE. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks, and include extraneous material on the topic of this Special Order.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Kentucky?

There was no objection.

Mr. GUTHRIE. Mr. Speaker, this evening, we will hear from myself and a colleague from Tennessee, and he is joining me today to talk about how the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act has benefited our States.

In my congressional district, Kentucky's Second, I have heard from constituents who have seen more money in their paychecks and from businesses that have been able to grow and pass along the benefits of tax reform directly to their employees.

The Tax Cuts and Jobs Act doubled the standard deduction for both individuals and couples. For the 75 percent of residents in Kentucky's Second District who take the standard deduction,

this is an automatic tax cut. Additionally, individuals in every tax bracket are paying lower rates.

When I visited Owensboro in February, I met Cheri and Ray Middleton, who own On Time Fab, a small business that provides fabrication services for agricultural, industrial, and commercial productions. Cheri and Ray shared with me that, during the first week of the implementation of the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act, each of the 20 employees of On Time Fab took home more pay as a result of tax reform.

One employee took home as much as \$56 a week and more than \$200 a month. A single dad working for On Time Fab is bringing home an extra \$40 each week. Some thought there was a mistake in their paychecks because they are able to keep so much of their hard-earned money, and \$40 a week is over \$160 a month.

By cutting the corporate tax rate to make the U.S. competitive globally, the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act has given businesses the opportunity to pass along savings to their customers. For example, residents of 48 States, plus the District of Columbia, are seeing their utility bills go down because of tax reform.

In Kentucky, the Public Service Commission has ordered investor-owned utilities to track their tax savings and to reduce rates for hundreds of thousands of Kentucky customers. In fact, the Public Service Commission has already announced that Kentucky Utilities' and Louisville Gas & Electric's residential electric customers will see their average monthly bills decreased by 6 percent.

Atmos Energy, which serves western Kentucky, announced in March that it will be cutting the average residential bill by just over 3 percent. Other savings from tax reform will fund infrastructure upgrades across the Commonwealth. Companies in Kentucky have been able to expand their operation because of the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act.

Owl's Head Alloys in my hometown of Bowling Green recently announced a \$3 million expansion which would create 17 new jobs, bringing their total employment in the Second District to nearly 100 good-paying jobs. When I visited their facility in March, Owl's Head owner and president, David Bradford, told me that the economic outlook resulting from the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act helped lead to their decision to expand.

This is exactly why we passed the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act: to give American businesses the confidence to grow and expand right in our communities, and to help individual taxpayers keep more of their money. Some might say that an extra \$200 a month is just crumbs. For hardworking Kentucky taxpayers, the extra money can go toward a car payment or a mortgage. It can help pay for a child's braces or even for regular expenses like groceries.

The bottom line is that, with more expendable income in their pockets, Americans across the country have more freedom to choose how they spend their hard-earned money. A typical family of four earning \$75,000 can expect to pay \$2,000 less in taxes this year compared to last year.

I was proud to support the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act, and I am proud to report that tax reform is making a real difference in the lives of Kentuckians.

Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to have a neighbor to the south of me here today to talk about how the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act is having a big effect on the lives of not just Kentuckians but all Americans—particularly Kentucky and Tennessee—so I yield to the gentleman from Tennessee (Mr. KUSTOFF), my good friend from suburban Memphis, which is one of the great cities in our area, to talk about the effects of the tax cuts in Tennessee.

Mr. KUSTOFF of Tennessee. Mr. Speaker, I want to thank the gentleman from Kentucky for organizing this evening and talking about how the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act is helping the hardworking people of Tennessee.

I think we all know that, in December, with President Trump's strong support, this Congress passed the first major reform of our Tax Code in 31 years. We all knew that bringing these historic changes to the Tax Code would improve the quality of life for Tennesseans and millions of Americans. Quite frankly, the Tax Code is simpler and fairer to everyone.

Jobs are being created, and paychecks are bigger. We are all enjoying a robust economy that is the best it has been in a long time. Just last week, in my district in west Tennessee, in the Eighth Congressional District of Tennessee, two major announcements were made in my district. In Lake County, Excel Boat Company announced they will be opening a manufacturing plant that will bring 200 good-paying jobs and a total economic development investment of \$9 million.

Additionally, in my district, a South Korean manufacturer announced a \$13 million investment in Martin, Tennessee, and 220 job opportunities at the company's first United States-based location.

Prior to that, just 1 month after the passage of the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act, FedEx announced an investment of more than \$200 million to raise wages for their employees. Then 2 months later, FedEx continued their post-tax reform action and committed over \$1 billion to expand their express hub in Memphis.

Another company in the Eighth Congressional District, Dot Foods, which has a location in Dyersburg, Tennessee, announced \$500 in bonuses for each of their 4,800 full-time employees nationwide.

I am also proud of First Horizon Corporation, also known as First Tennessee Bank, which is based in Tennessee, with branches all across the

Volunteer State. They invested tax reform savings in their workforce. Not only did the bank give eligible employees a bonus, they also increased their minimum wage to \$15 an hour. This was because of tax reform.

Now, a way to raise the minimum wage is to increase economic opportunities, economic possibilities, just, frankly, making the economic environment better.

Then there was the announcement by Tyson Foods, who gave a bonus to their frontline workers, or, as they call them, the backbone of their business. I have got a chart here of Tennessee, and you can see that, in Tennessee, the typical family of four is going to see a tax cut of over \$2,000. That is real money.

I think about an employer that I visited with in my district who said—he may have 8 or 10 employees—he said he noticed when he was doing his employees' payroll—and they get paid each and every week—he noticed they were getting an additional \$15 to \$20 per week. So, if somebody is getting an additional \$20 per week per pay period, that is \$1,000 a year.

The typical family of four in Tennessee is getting a tax cut of \$2,023. Think of it this way: across the Nation, across our country, more than 4 million workers and counting have received a bonus, a pay raise, or increased retirement benefits.

Mr. Speaker, it is becoming increasingly clear that tax reform is working and the America economic engine is off and running again. The most recent Federal jobs report shows the fastest wage growth since the 2008 recession, and the unemployment rate has dropped to a 17-year low.

Mr. Speaker, I want to thank Speaker RYAN. I want to thank Chairman BRADY and especially President Donald Trump on their leadership in passing this landmark legislation. And, again, I want to thank the gentleman from Kentucky for all of his help in organizing tonight to remind the people of this country the hard work that the President has done, the hard work that this Congress has done—the House of Representatives, and the Senate—so that we can improve our economy and we can return hard-earned money to the people, because they best know how to spend their money, not the bureaucrats in Washington.

Mr. GUTHRIE. Mr. Speaker, I thank my friend from Tennessee for yielding back. As he said, Tennessee has seen the benefits from tax reform. Kentucky is seeing the benefits of tax reform and the opportunity for people to move into prosperity as they expand opportunity.

According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, in April, unemployment was at 3.9 percent across the country. The Bureau of Labor Statistics also reported that 164,000 jobs were added across the country in April, raising the total since our tax reform bill was signed into law to nearly 800,000 people.

Businesses are confident in our economy because of tax reform. Most businesses are telling me that they are looking for workers, looking for people to have the opportunity to move forward. One of the great reasons that we are trying to do some of the policies that were talked about during the last hour is that we want to see people have the opportunity to work, to go from poverty to prosperity, from dependence to independence.

We want people to have the opportunity to move forward, and a growing economy will allow them to do so because these people are needed in the workforce. They are wanted. They are needed, and I will guarantee you, when we have people in the workforce, they are going to be better off than if they are not. So we are looking forward to moving forward with some of the issues that were talked about earlier.

But tonight we have heard stories about Kentuckians; we have heard stories about Tennesseans who have benefited from tax reform. Hardworking taxpayers are seeing more money in their paychecks. Companies are expanding and creating jobs. Businesses are passing along the benefits of tax cuts to their customers and to their employees, handing out bonuses and raises. We are seeing these stories in our own States and across the country.

This is exactly what we expected when we passed the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act, and I am glad to see many of our communities benefiting from this bill. I want to thank my friend from Tennessee for sharing his stories from Tennessee, as I was sharing my stories from Kentucky, and I thank him for joining me tonight to discuss the importance of tax reform.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

#### LEAVE OF ABSENCE

By unanimous consent, leave of absence was granted to:

Mrs. BROOKS of Indiana (at the request of Mr. McCARTHY) for today on account of district business.

Ms. ESTY of Connecticut (at the request of Ms. PELOSI) for today on account of personal business.

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas (at the request of Ms. PELOSI) for today and May 8.

Mr. TONKO (at the request of Ms. PELOSI) for today on account of official business.

#### ADJOURNMENT

Mr. GUTHRIE. Mr. Speaker, I move that the House do now adjourn.

The motion was agreed to; accordingly (at 8 o'clock and 42 minutes p.m.), under its previous order, the House adjourned until tomorrow, Tuesday, May 8, 2018, at 10 a.m. for morning-hour debate.

#### OATH OF OFFICE MEMBERS, RESIDENT COMMISSIONER, AND DELEGATES

The oath of office required by the sixth article of the Constitution of the United States, and as provided by section 2 of the act of May 13, 1884 (23 Stat. 22), to be administered to Members, Resident Commissioner, and Delegates of the House of Representatives, the text of which is carried in 5 U.S.C. 3331:

"I, AB, do solemnly swear (or affirm) that I will support and defend the Constitution of the United States against all enemies, foreign and domestic; that I will bear true faith and allegiance to the same; that I take this obligation freely, without any mental reservation or purpose of evasion; and that I will well and faithfully discharge the duties of the office on which I am about to enter. So help me God."

has been subscribed to in person and filed in duplicate with the Clerk of the House of Representatives by the following Member of the 115th Congress, pursuant to the provisions of 2 U.S.C. 25:

DEBBIE LESKO,  
Eighth District of Arizona.

#### EXPENDITURE REPORTS CONCERNING OFFICIAL FOREIGN TRAVEL

Reports concerning the foreign currencies and U.S. dollars utilized for Official Foreign Travel during the first and second quarters of 2018, pursuant to Public Law 95-384, are as follows:

##### REPORT OF EXPENDITURES FOR OFFICIAL FOREIGN TRAVEL, DANIEL SILVERBERG, EXPENDED BETWEEN JAN. 1 AND JAN. 4, 2018

Name of Member or employee	Date		Country	Per diem <sup>1</sup>		Transportation		Other purposes		Total	
	Arrival	Departure		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency <sup>2</sup>	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency <sup>2</sup>	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency <sup>2</sup>	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency <sup>2</sup>
Daniel Silverberg .....	1/1	1/3	Iraq .....		22.00		11,925.00				11,947.00
	1/3	1/4	Turkey .....		430.00		1,278.00				1708.00